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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

# A CIA Spy Ploy Backfires

The intent, they said, was merely to correct a woeful lack of hard information about international terrorism. So an interagency group headed by CIA general counsel Daniel B. Silver prepared a draft Executive order that would give the CIA broad new latitude to spy on U.S. citizens—virtually repealing Presidential directives by Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter and all but ignoring the troubled history of the agency's domestic spying operations in the 1960s and '70s. But last

the United States, and he urged that the agency no longer be required to obtain the Attorney General's case-by-case approval to use other intrusive surveillance techniques, such as mail openings and surreptitious searches. His draft order would soften restrictions on compiling dossiers on Americans at home and virtually scrap current limitations on surveillance of U.S. citizens abroad. CIA agents would be allowed to infiltrate U.S. organizations with foreign ties, including some multinational corpo-

lieve that at least some modest relaxation of the rules will be approved later this year. Conservative pressure to unshackle the CIA remains heavy, and "ultimately," Inman said, "we're going to have to deal with the problem of terrorism." The difficulty, as the nation has learned the hard way, will be in balancing legitimate national-security needs with constitutional guarantees.

TOM MORGANTHAU with ELAINE SHANNON and DAVID C. MARTIN in Washington



Casey: He circulated the proposals

week the proposals, with a covering letter signed by CIA director and OSS veteran William Casey, were suddenly leaked to the press, triggering a protest in Congress and prompting the CIA's deputy director, Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, to disavow the whole thing.

The proposals caused alarm because they provided few checks on CIA activities in the United States. They would sharply curtail Justice Department oversight of CIA investigations involving U.S. citizens, and they would allow the agency far more leeway for operations within the United States—despite the conclusion by both the Ford and Carter administrations that the FBI was better prepared to function with constitutional restraint. "While FBI agents sometimes operate clandestinely, they also operate constantly with the idea that this may become subject to public commentary and judicial review," said one critic of the proposals, former Justice Department lawyer Kenneth Bass. "The spotlight is a good check."



John Ficarra—Newsweek

Inman: He publicly disavowed them

rations; equally worrisome to civil libertarians, the Silver proposals would jettison a Carter-era ban on CIA attempts to influence the activities of those organizations and their members.

**'Full Circle':** The American Civil Liberties Union warned that the proposals would "seriously jeopardize" the rights of "law-abiding citizens." If they were approved, said Sen. Joseph Biden, "we will truly have come full circle on the issue of legitimate restraints" on the CIA. With Casey out of the country, Inman—a low-profile specialist whose mastery of sophisticated technology landed him the CIA's No. 2 job—quickly went public to oppose a return to